

Information Sheet

Areas for action: 2017–2019

AURA 2017: Second Australian report on antimicrobial use and resistance in human health provides data and analyses from the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) Surveillance System, primarily from 2015.

Areas for action by the AURA National Coordinating Unit arising from the analyses reported in AURA 2017 include:

- Intensifying efforts to reduce unnecessary prescribing and improve appropriateness of prescribing in general practice (particularly for upper respiratory tract infections) and hospital settings (particularly for surgical prophylaxis)
- Promoting development of national benchmarks for best-practice prescribing of antimicrobial agents in general practice
- Promoting implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs in general practice and aged care homes to reduce the use of amoxicillin, amoxicillin–clavulanate and cefalexin
- Working with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on restricting prescribers' access to amoxicillin–clavulanate
- Collaborating with the Royal Australian College of Surgeons to develop guidance for surgical prophylaxis to address inappropriate antimicrobial prescribing
- Supporting implementation of the Commission's [Recommendations for the control of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae \(CPE\). A guide for acute care health facilities](#)
- Strengthening infection control guidelines to address the spread of vancomycin-resistant enterococci
- Continuing to monitor critical antimicrobial resistances (CARs) for priority organisms through the National Alert System for Critical Antimicrobial Resistances (CARAlert) to provide near real time information for infection control and outbreak responses, and to inform treatment guidelines
- Analysing CARAlert data in more detail to support state and territory prevention and control activities
- Working with laboratory services, and public and private health services to develop a more uniform approach to antimicrobial-susceptibility testing systems



- Increasing participation in the AURA Surveillance System program to improve geographical, hospital peer group and aged care home representativeness
- Assessing factors that drive variation in antimicrobial use and prescribing across regions, states and territories

Further information

AURA Project:

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-australia/

AURA Resources:

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-australia/resources-page

Australia's First National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy:

[www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1803C433C71415CACA257C8400121B1F/\\$File/amr-strategy-2015-2019.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1803C433C71415CACA257C8400121B1F/$File/amr-strategy-2015-2019.pdf)

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